



# BusinessWeek

## East African Undersea Fiber-Optic Cable Lands in Kenya Ahead of Schedule

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The East African Submarine System, a fiber-optic cable linking 20 African countries, landed at the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa today, two weeks ahead of schedule. The cable has now landed in eight countries.

"We will be testing for two months then go live," said James Wekesa, Chief Commercial Officer of the West Indian Ocean Cable Company. The final landing will be in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania, on April 7.

Nairobi-based West Indian Ocean Cable Co. owns 29 percent of the fiber-optic link, known as Eassy, and is the largest shareholder in the venture.

West Indian Ocean Cable Co. is owned by a group of 12 African telecommunication companies and four development finance institutions, including the International Finance Corporation, the African Development Bank, KfW of Germany, and the French Development Agency.

Eassy will cost a total of \$263 million. The four development finance institutions have already provided \$75 million in funding.

Seacom, a fiber-optic link owned by Mauritius-based Seacom Ltd., was the first in East Africa to go live in July.

To read the entire article, please [click here](#).

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